

**CLAIMS:**

1. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition, comprising administering to the subject a combination of an effective amount of methotrexate (MTX) and an effective amount of an agonist of the A<sub>3</sub> adenosine receptor (A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist).
2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein MTX is administered to the subject once weekly.
3. A method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is administered to subjects between once and a few times a day.
4. A method according to any one of Claim 1 to 3, wherein the A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is given to the subject orally.
5. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is IB-MECA or Cl-IB-MECA.
6. A method according to any one of Claims 3 to 6, wherein a daily dosage of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is less than 4 mg.
7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein a daily dosage of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is within the range of about 0.01 to about 2 mg.
8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein a daily dosage of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is within the range of about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg.
9. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.
10. A method according to Claim 10, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.
11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is IB-MECA.
12. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and treated with MTX, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist.

13. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and indicated for treatment with an A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of MTX.
14. A method according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein the A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is administered to the subject between once and a few times a day.
15. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 14, wherein the A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is given to the subject orally.
16. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 15, wherein the A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is IB-MECA or CI-IB-MECA.
17. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 16, wherein a daily dosage of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is less than 4 mg.
18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein a daily dosage of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is within the range of about 0.01 to about 2 mg.
19. A method according to Claim 18, wherein a daily dosage of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is within the range of about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg.
20. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 19, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.
21. A method according to Claim 20, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.
22. Use of an A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX.
23. Use of MTX for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and being treated with an A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist.
24. Use according to Claim 22 or 23, wherein said inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.
25. Use according to Claim 14, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

26. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX, comprising an effective amount of A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist.
27. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26, comprising a physiologically acceptable carrier for oral delivery of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist.
28. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 or 27, wherein said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is IB-MECA or CI-IB-MECA.
29. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising less than 4 mg of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist.
30. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising less than 4 mg of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist.
31. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising between about 0.01 to about 2 mg of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist.
32. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising between about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg of said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist.
33. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a patient having an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX, comprising an effective amount of an A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist.
34. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of Claims 26 to 33, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.
35. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 34, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.
36. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 35, wherein said A<sub>3</sub>AR agonist is IB-MECA.